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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,738	11/13/2003	Raymond Kam	CHU/275/US	8908
2543	7590	06/16/2004	EXAMINER	
ALIX YALE & RISTAS LLP 750 MAIN STREET SUITE 1400 HARTFORD, CT 06103			CARTER, MONICA SMITH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3722	

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/712,738	KAM, RAYMOND	
	Examiner Monica S. Carter	Art Unit 3722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2003.

2a)  This action is FINAL.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-4, 7 and 8 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date . . . .  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: . . . .

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 2, "stripes – one" should be replaced with "stripes one". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips (5,087,078) in view of Rigg (4,775,257).

Phillips discloses a protective book cover comprising a front plate (20- cover sleeve over front cover 12), a back plate (20- cover sleeve over back cover 14) having a pocket (the pocket being formed by front sheet 22 and rear sheet 24) for receiving a back page (14) of a book and spine piece (40) interconnecting the plates.

Phillips discloses the claimed invention except for a lace interconnecting the plates.

Rigg discloses an expandable loose-leaf binder for releasable insertion of perforated paper sheets comprising a front plate (20), a back plate (40) and a lace (22 – strip having lace 24) interconnecting the plates (see figures 1 and 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

modify the book cover of Phillips to include a lace binding, as taught by Rigg, to provide an alternative means for binding the book cover that is inexpensive and expandable and "permits the releasable insertion of sheets at any place in the binder without having to remove other sheets first" (col. 1, lines 44-49).

Regarding claim 2, Phillips, as modified by Rigg, discloses the front and back plates each having a hinge at one edge (wherein the hinge is located at the inner edge of the plates adjacent the spine of the book as seen in figure 3).

Regarding claim 3, Phillips, as modified by Rigg, discloses the front plate having a pocket (the pocket being formed by front sheet 22 and rear sheet 24) for receiving a front page (12) of a book.

Regarding claim 4, Phillips, as modified by Rigg, discloses a pair of apertured strips (the apertured strips being the sections along the inner edges of plates 20, 40) at an edge of each of the front and back plates (as seen in figure 1 of Rigg).

Regarding claim 7, Phillips, as modified by Rigg, discloses the claimed invention except for lace passing through the apertures of the apertured strips to connect the apertured strips together (as seen in figure 3 of Rigg).

Regarding claim 8, Phillips, as modified by Rigg, discloses the lace being elastic since the lace is of woven, tubular shoelace material that is inherently elastic.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited references disclose book covers.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monica S. Carter whose telephone number is (703) 305-0305. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (7:00 AM - 4:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrea L. Wellington can be reached on (703) 308-2159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

June 10, 2004

*Monica S. Carter*  
MONICA S. CARTER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER